

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: 4am, 4 September 2023

MORE THAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSES NEEDED TO REDUCE RISK FOR FARMERS

A leading international trade and development economist is warning that farmers are among the worst-affected by uncertainties brought on by climate change. However, the current focus on policies and funding around climate change should not overlook the on-going need for improving price and trade policies and markets for natural capital, to ensure better outcomes in terms of reductions in global food insecurity, malnutrition, biodiversity loss and extreme poverty.

Em Prof Kym Anderson AC has held senior research leadership positions at the World Trade Organization and the World Bank, and many significant research advisory positions, including in Australia. He will be addressing the Crawford Fund's international conference - Australia's key food security event - *Global Food Security in a Riskier World* being held in Canberra, 4-5 September. The conference will also be addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator The Hon, Penny Wong and **Dr Cary Fowler**, the US Special Envoy on Food Security.

"Farmers the world over can tell you they face risk, uncertainty and volatility. Off-farm risks are out of their hands, and uncertainties have increased because of trade and geopolitical tensions as well as global climate and health events," said Dr Anderson, who won the prestigious Crawford Fund Medal for his contribution to economic development in the overlapping fields of international trade and political economy. Dr Anderson will be presented with the Sir John Crawford Medal on 4 September at the conference.

"Australian farmers have seen the impact on their bottom line of the sometimes-erratic policies of other governments, especially China, the US and Russia. Even well-meaning government policies can have a significant impact on Australia, an agricultural trading nation," said Dr Anderson, the George Gollin Professor Emeritus in the School of Economics and Public Policy, and formerly foundation Executive Director of the Centre for International Economic Studies at the University of Adelaide, and Honorary Professor at the ANU Arndt-Corden Department of Economics.

"Farmers are among the worst-affected by, but are also significant contributors to, greenhouse gas emissions. Adapting to global warming and more-extreme weather events, and to new policies aimed at mitigating climate change, are challenging many farmers, even if some see opportunities to be paid to contribute to mitigation."

"What is also needed to boost global food and nutrition security and to help generate more-sustainable food systems and more-resilient climate-smart farmers is more public investment in agricultural research and rural infrastructure and more public-private collaboration to up-scale innovations, many of which are originating here in Australia."

The Fund's annual conference will bring together international and Australian specialists to address the grand challenge presented by the need to produce more nutritious food, sustainably, in a riskier and more uncertain world.

Other speakers include **Dr Cary Fowler**, the US Special Envoy on Food Security, **Professor Wendy Umberger**, CEO, The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, **Ben Fargher**, Environmental Markets Lead, Cargill Asia Pacific, and **Dr Warren T K Lee**, Senior Nutrition & Food Systems Officer, UN FAO.

